

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary,

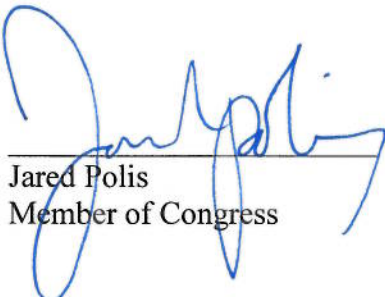
We write today in response to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Notice of Intent to Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Prepare Associated Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessment rule published in the Federal Register on October 11, 2017. Currently, the Notice of Intent only permits a 45-day comment period. We believe that this comment window is not sufficient for stakeholders and partners to prepare this type of comprehensive feedback. Therefore, we ask that the public comment period be extended an additional 45 days.

For nearly ten years, state and local partners worked to create comprehensive plans to mitigate wildfire risk on sagebrush and protect the sage grouse. Their efforts and collaboration created a solution that protected vital sage grouse habitat and eliminated the need for Endangered Species Act protection for the sage-grouse. Moreover, these plans ensured the protection of our western lands while maintaining vital incentives that assist landowners and livestock producers to manage and conserve sage grouse habitat on their lands.

It is clear that any attempt to rewrite or modify these plans must be done with attention to detail, and with input from state, local, and federal partners across the 11 Western states in a new collaborative process. Due to the complexity of the rule and the success of past collaboration, we believe that all stakeholders, from conservationists to ranchers, must be given ample opportunity to provide comprehensive feedback to the BLM.

We again urge that the public comment period be extended an additional 45 days.


Sincerely,




Jared Polis
Member of Congress

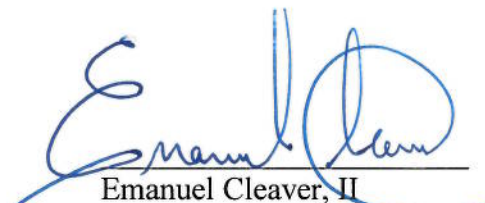


Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress

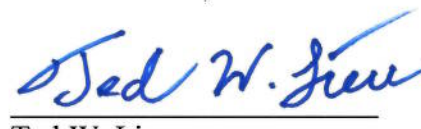

Raúl M. Grijalva
Ranking Member



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

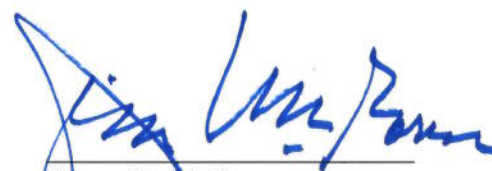

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

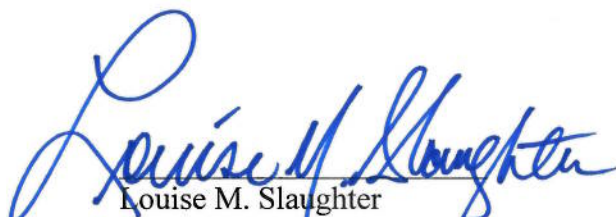

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Ted W. Lieu
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Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

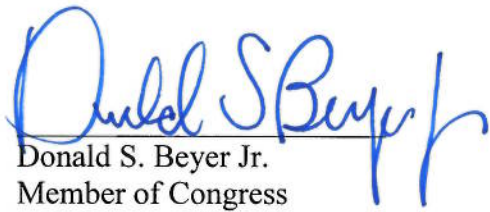

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Louise M. Slaughter
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Mark Pocan
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Alan Lowenthal
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



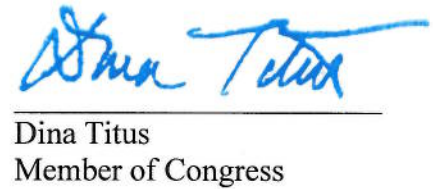
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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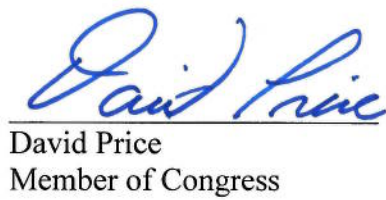
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



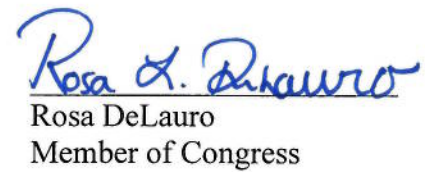
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Dina Titus
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David Price
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Rosa DeLauro
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



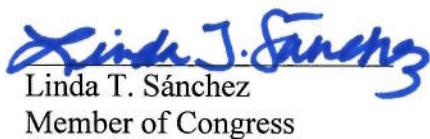
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



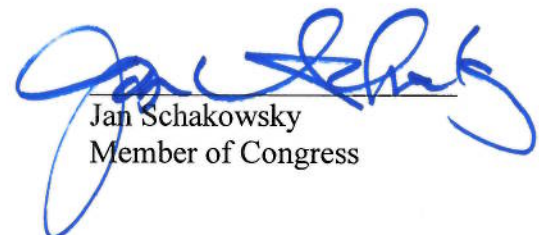
Tim Walz
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Zoe Lofgren
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